

Message Text

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INFO RUQMBI/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI 5760
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 279518

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM AMMAN NOV 10:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 6830

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, PFOR, BGEN, JO
SUBJECT: EMBASSY APPROACH TO GOJ ON ARAB BOYCOTT ISSUES

REF: (A) STATE 254030, (B) AMMAN A-72, (C) STATE 274477,
(D) STATE 269213
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1. ON NOVEMBER 9, AMBASSADOR CALLED ON GOJ MINISTER OF FINANCE, SALIM MASA'DEH, TO DISCUSS GENERAL ARAB BOYCOTT ISSUES INDICATED IN REF (A) AND TOOK OPPORTUNITY OF OCCASION TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC BOYCOTT ISSUES RAISED IN OTHER STATE REFTELS. IN ADDITION TO MINISTER, SENIOR UNDER-SECRETARY OF FINANCE MINISTRY (FOR DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET) FARHI OBAID, TOOK PART IN DISCUSSION. CONVERSATION WAS FRANK AND FRIENDLY AND CONDUCTED THROUGHOUT ON BASIS OF HIGH VALUE BOTH GOVERNMENTS PLACE ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND MUTUAL RESPECT FOR NATIONAL POLICIES ON WHICH WE SOMETIMES DIFFER. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS OF INDIVIDUAL TOPICS FOLLOWS:

2. DISCRIMINATION -- MINISTER AND UNDERSECRETARY REAFFIRMED IN UNEQUIVOCAL TERMS THAT GOJ DOES NOT ENFORCE BOYCOTT ON BASIS RELIGION OR RACE. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THIS RESPONSE IS ACCURATE STATEMENT OF GOJ POLICY.

3. CERTIFICATION OF ORIGIN -- AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED IN DETAIL OUR PERCEPTION OF ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCE IN IMPACT OF NEGATIVE AND POSITIVE CERTIFICATIONS OF ORIGIN OF GOODS SUPPLIED TO JORDAN BY AMERICAN FIRMS. IT WAS APPARENT THAT NEITHER JORDANIAN OFFICIAL HAD PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED CERTIFICATION OF ORIGIN FROM THIS VIEWPOINT. THEIR REACTION WAS SYMPATHETIC, AND THEY ASSURED AMBASSADOR THAT THEY WILL LOOK INTO CURRENT PRACTICE WITH POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS MOVING TO EXCLUSIVE USE OF POSITIVE CERTIFICATION.

4. REQUESTS FOR US FIRMS TO REFUSE TO DEAL WITH OTHER US FIRMS --MINISTRY OF FINANCE OFFICIALS EXPRESSED TOTAL LACK OF KNOWLEDGE (SHARED BY US MISSION) OF ANY INSTANCE OF REQUEST ORIGINATING FROM JORDAN THAT ONE US FIRM REFUSE TO DEAL WITH ANOTHER. THEY WERE APPRECIATIVE OF AMBASSADOR'S EXPLANATION OF US CONCERN AND WILL INVESTIGATE TO CONFIRM THEIR IMPRESSION THAT NO SUCH CASES EXIST.

5. PROSPECTIVE GOJ BOYCOTT OF WESTINGHOUSE -- AMBASSA-
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DOR INFORMED JORDANIAN OFFICIALS OF LETTER SENT TO WESTINGHOUSE, APPARENTLY FROM AMMAN BOYCOTT OFFICE (WHICH IS LOCATED IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE) WARNING FIRM THAT ITS BID ON NUCLEAR POWER PLANT FOR ISRAEL COULD BE CAUSE FOR BOYCOTT OF WESTINGHOUSE. BOTH OFFICIALS WERE GENUINELY SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT SUCH LETTER HAD ORIGINATED IN MINISTRY. THEY WILL INVESTIGATE AND GET BACK TO US.

6. GOJ BOYCOTT OF "CONGREGATIONAL SHERLTH ISRAEL" --
AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED OUR DEEP CONCERN AT LISTING OF
WOMEN'S GROUPS ASSOCIATED WITH "CONGREGATIONAL SHERLTH
ISRAEL" IN JORDAN'S OFFICIAL GAZETTE AS A BOYCOTTED
FIRM AS THIS ACTION APPEARS TO BE CLEAR CASE OF BOYCOTT
OF NON-COMMERCIAL RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION AND EXPRESSIVE
OF RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION. JORDANIAN OFFICIALS
HAD BEEN UNAWARE OF THIS LISTING IN GAZETTE. THEY EX-
PLAINED GOJ GAZETTING OF BOYCOTTED ORGANIZATIONS IS
HANDLED AS ROUTINE MATTER INVOLVING ONLY PUBLICATION
OF DECISIONS OF CENTRAL BOYCOTT COMMITTEE IN DAMASCUS.
FROM DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION AS TRANSLATED IN OUR
A-72 REPORTING BOYCOTT OF "CONGREATION SHERLTH ISRAEL"
THEY AGREED THAT BOYCOTT HAD BEEN IMPROPERLY IMPOSED.
THEIR TENTATIVE CONCLUSION IS THAT ERROR ORIGINATING IN
DAMASCUS WAS REPEATED IN ROUTINE PUBLICATION OF CENTRAL
COMMITTEE DECISIONS IN JORDAN'S GAZETTE. THEY WILL LOOK
INTO MATTER EXPEDITIOUSLY, WHICH PRESUMABLY WILL RE-
QUIRE QUERY TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND REQUEST TO DELETE
ORGANIZATION FROM LIST. IN EVENT THAT COMMITTEE DE-
CIDES THAT ITS DECISION WAS PROPER, AND GOJ DISAGREES,
GOJ WILL UNDERTAKE UNILATERALLY TO REMOVE ORGANI-
ZATION FROM IRS OWN BOYCOTT LIST.

7. COMMENT -- THAT TWO MOST SENIOR OFFICALS IN JORDAN'S
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR APPLI-
CATION OF BOYCOTT HOLDS MINOR POSITION) WERE UNAWARE
OF EITHER WARNING LETTER TO WESTINGHOUSE OR APPARENT
GOJ BOYCOTT OF RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION REINFORCES OUR BE-
LIEVE THAT GOJ DOES NOT PROSECUTE BOYCOTT WITH ANY
INITIATIVE OR PARTICULARLY HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION. AS
PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, JORDAN FEELS CONSTRAINED FOR
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POLITICAL REASONS TO FOLLOW ARAB CONSENSUS ON BOYCOTT.
AT SAME TIME GOJ PLACES EXTREMELY HIGH VALUE ON RE-
LATIONS WITH US AND WITHIN LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY
RELATIONS WITH OTHER ARAB STATES, WE FULLY EXPECT GOJ
WILL TRY ITS BEST TO COOPERATE ON BASIS OUR MUTUAL
INTEREST IN MINIMIZING NEGATIVE EFFECT OF JORDANIAN
APPLICATION OF BOYCOTT ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

8. DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED. PICKERING UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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NNN

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